REMARKS

Pine tree needles range from 1½" to 18" in length depending on the species, and there are over 90 species of Pine trees. These needles are extremely hearty and durable, often taking years to decompose after they fall. When they fall on a roof they tend to intertwine and weave together in mat form. If not removed periodically they can create costly problems for homeowners.

After careful study of all known raking implement patents we did not find one capable of clearing roof surfaces as efficiently or as safely as The ROOF-RAKER. Very little physical strength or effort is required, making it possible for young teen-agers or elderly retirees to use our device. And the economies are quite considerable when compared to costs of commercial roof maintenance services.

While The ROOF-RAKER is designed primarily to remove pine straw and leaf debris from roofs of houses it can also be used to effectively remove small branches, twigs, pine cones and other organic debris.

We visualize companion devices such as an attachment that would protrude at right angles from a connecting pole to assist a user in removing pine straw and leaf debris from behind chimneys and skylights.

We also visualize the possibility of our device being clamped, fastened or otherwise permanently attached to a lightweight telescopic or other long pole, forming a single unit.

Further, after many visits to home improvement stores such as Home Depot, Lowe's, Grayco, WalMart, Ace Hardware and TruValue Hardware we could not find a product specifically made to remove pine straw and leaf debris from roofs of houses. Nor could we find a product that resembles our invention or that could achieve the stated purpose of our invention. We therefore respectfully request early approval of our Patent Application.

All cited Patents, regardless of anticipated changes to each or any combination of Patents, would be incapable of performing the roof-raking tasks we describe. The overall width ratios of the central support structures and transverse support structures to the width ratios of the tines create a condition whereby these ratios render each cited rake head incapable of descending into the apex of any degree of V-shaped roof angle, and therefore incapable of clearing pine straw and leaf debris simultaneously from both planes and the apex of a V-shaped roof angle in a single downward pulling motion.